

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-14 are pending. Claim 2 is canceled and claims 1 and 3-6 are amended. The specification is also amended to correct grammatical errors noted in Table 2 on page 31 of the specification.

As a preliminary matter, an Information Disclosure Statement was filed November 17, 2003. The Examiner is requested to return an initialed copy of form PTO-1449 showing consideration of the references cited therein.

Claim 6 was objected to as being of improper dependent form. Claim 6 has been amended to specify "which has been fixed on a recording medium." As such, it is believed that the rejection has been overcome.

Claim 6 was also rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner argues that the specification as filed does not provide a basis for "an electrographic toner." However, originally-filed claim 6 clearly set forth "an electrographic imaging process." Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to favorably reconsider the rejection.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kushino et al. in view of Yamanaka et al. Favorable reconsideration of this rejection is earnestly solicited.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the infrared absorbing compound is phthalocyanine, naphthalocyanine or a mixture thereof. Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the calixarene compound is a charge controlling agent. The cited art fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention.

The combined use of phthalocyanine, naphthalocyanine or a mixture thereof, as an infrared absorbing compound, and the specific calixarene compound recited in claim 1, as in a photofixing color imaging toner is distinguished over the prior art because none of the cited references teach such a combined use of the specific infrared absorbing compound and the specific charge controlling agent and the resulting remarkable effects which have been evidenced in the examples of this application.

Specifically, as disclosed in pages 3 and 4 of the specification, use of an infrared absorbing agent in the photofixing system has been suggested in various publications including JP-A-11-38666 and others which correspond to USP '488 cited by the Examiner, and also use of a charge controlling agent has been suggested in various publications including JP-A-201378 which corresponds to Yamanaka et al. However, it was very difficult to use an infrared absorbing agent and a charge controlling agent in combination because loss in both of the IR absorbing power and the charging power is caused due to undesirable reactions between these agents upon heating of the toner preparation as discussed at page 4, lines 17 through 23 of the specification. The difficulty in the combination of an infrared absorbing agent and a charge controlling agent is disclosed in, for example, column 2, line 27 through column 3, line 30 of Katagiri et al. (USP 5,432,035 which corresponds to JP-A-7-191492).

Yamanaka et al. teaches use of a calixarene compound as a charge controlling agent. However, contrary to the present invention, its function cannot be improved even if it is used in combination with phthalocyanine or naphthalocyanine as an infrared absorbing agent because the toner of Yamanaka et al. is designed to be used in a heat roll fixing system (not photofixing system).

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Takezawa et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0061456) in view of Yamanaka. Takezawa et al. and the present application were, at the time the present application was made, owned by Fujitsu Limited. Accordingly, Takezawa et al. is overcome as prior art. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Katagiri et al. (US Patent Publication No. 2002/010657) in view of Yamanaka. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Katagiri et al. and the present application were, at the time the present application was made, owned by Fujitsu Limited. Accordingly, Katagiri et al. is overcome as prior art.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the presently claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

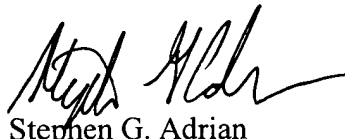
Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/931,082

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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SGA/arf

Attachment: Petition for Extension of Time

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